



BILLING CODE (3410-XY-U)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

Inviting Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program Applications for Grants to Provide Technical Assistance for Rural Transportation Systems

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), an Agency within the USDA Rural Development mission area, announces the availability of two individual grants: one single \$500,000 grant from the rural transportation funds appropriated for the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program and another single \$250,000 grant for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes' (FRNAT) from funds appropriated for the RBEG program. RBS will administer these awards under the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program and 7 U.S.C. 1932(c)(2) for fiscal year (FY) 2012. Each grant is to be competitively awarded to an eligible applicant which historically has been a qualified national non-profit organization. One grant is for the provision of technical assistance to rural transportation (RT) projects and that the other grant will be for the provision of technical assistance to RT projects operated by FRNAT's only.

Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant's risk.

DATES: The deadline for receipt of applications in the USDA Rural Development State Office is no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on [INSERT 60 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. Applications received at a USDA Rural Development State Office after that date will not be considered for FY 2012 funding.

ADDRESSES: Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the appropriate USDA Rural Development State Office to receive copies of the application package. A list of the USDA Rural Development State Offices addresses and telephone numbers are as follows:

Alabama

USDA Rural Development State Office
Sterling Centre, Suite 601
4121 Carmichael Road
Montgomery, AL 36106-3683
(334) 279-3400/TDD (334) 279-3495

Alaska

USDA Rural Development State Office
800 West Evergreen, Suite 201
Palmer, AK 99645-6539
(907) 761-7707/TDD (907) 761-8905

Arizona

USDA Rural Development State Office
230 North First Avenue, Suite 206
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706
(602) 280-8702/TDD (602) 280-8705

Arkansas

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building
700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416
Little Rock, AR 72201-3225
(501) 301-3200/TDD (501) 301-3279

California

USDA Rural Development State Office
430 G Street, Agency 4169
Davis, CA 95616-4169
(530) 792-5800/TDD (530) 792-5848

Colorado

USDA Rural Development State Office
Denver Federal Center
Building 56, Room 2300
P.O. Box 25426
Denver, CO 80225-0426
(720) 544-2903/TDD (800) 659-3656

Delaware-Maryland

USDA Rural Development State Office
1221 College Park Drive, Suite 200
Dover, DE 19904
(302) 857-3580/TDD (302) 857-3585

Florida/Virgin Islands

USDA Rural Development State Office
4440 NW 25th Place
P.O. Box 147010
Gainesville, FL 32614-7010
(352) 338-3400/TDD (352) 338-3499

Georgia

USDA Rural Development State Office
Stephens Federal Building
355 East Hancock Avenue, Stop 300
Athens, GA 30601-2768
(706) 546-2162/TDD (706) 546-2034

Hawaii

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building, Room 311
154 Waianuenue Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 933-8302/TDD (808) 933-8321

Idaho

USDA Rural Development State Office
9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite A1
Boise, ID 83709
(208) 378-5601/TDD (208) 378-5644

Illinois

USDA Rural Development State Office
2118 West Park Court, Suite A
Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 403-6201/TDD (217) 403-6240

Indiana

USDA Rural Development State Office
5975 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278
(317) 290-3100 ext. 4/TDD (317) 290-3343

Iowa

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building, Room 873
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 284-4663/TDD (515) 284-4858

Kansas

USDA Rural Development State Office
1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66604-4040
(785) 271-2777/TDD (785) 271-2767

Kentucky

USDA Rural Development State Office
771 Corporate Drive, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40503
(859) 224-7300/TDD (859) 224-7422

Louisiana

USDA Rural Development State Office
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302
(318) 473-7920/TDD (318) 473-7655

Maine

USDA Rural Development State Office
967 Illinois Avenue, Suite 4
P.O. Box 405
Bangor, ME 04402-0405
(207) 990-9161/TDD (207) 942-7331

Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut

USDA Rural Development State Office
451 West Street
Amherst, MA 01002-2999
(413) 253-4302/TDD (413) 253-4590

Michigan

USDA Rural Development State Office
3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 200
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 324-5190/TDD (517) 324-5169

Minnesota

USDA Rural Development State Office
410 Farm Credit Service Building
375 Jackson Street
St. Paul, MN 55101-1853
(651) 602-7800/TDD (651) 602-3799

Mississippi

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building, Suite 831
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS 39269
(601) 965-4211/TDD (601) 965-5850

Missouri

USDA Rural Development State Office
601 Business Loop 70 West
Parkade Center, Suite 235
Columbia, MO 65203
(573) 876-0987/TDD (573) 876-9480

Montana

USDA Rural Development State Office
2229 Boot Hill Court
P.O. Box 850
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 585-2580/TDD (406) 585-2562

Nebraska

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building, Room 152
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508
(308) 632-2195/TDD (402) 437-5093

Nevada

USDA Rural Development State Office
1390 South Curry Street
Carson City, NV 89703-9910
(775) 887-1222/TDD (775) 885-0633

New Jersey

USDA Rural Development State Office
8000 Midlantic Drive
5th Floor North, Suite 500
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
(856) 787-7700/TDD (856) 787-7784

New Mexico

USDA Rural Development State Office
6200 Jefferson Street, Room 255
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 761-4950/TDD (505) 761-4938

New York

USDA Rural Development State Office
The Galleries of Syracuse
441 South Salina Street, Suite 357
Syracuse, NY 13202-2541
(315) 477-6435/TDD (315) 477-6447

North Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office
4405 Bland Road, Suite 260
Raleigh, NC 27609
(919) 873-2015/TDD (919) 873-2003

North Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building, Room 208
220 East Rosser Avenue
P.O. Box 1737
Bismarck, ND 58502-1737
(701) 530-2037/TDD (701) 530-2113

Ohio

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building, Room 507
200 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-2418
(614) 255-2390/TDD (614) 255-2554

Oklahoma

USDA Rural Development State Office
100 USDA, Suite 108
Stillwater, OK 74074-2654
(405) 742-1000/TDD (405) 742-1007

Oregon

USDA Rural Development State Office
1201 Northeast Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 801
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 414-3305/TDD (503) 414-3387

Pennsylvania

USDA Rural Development State Office
One Credit Union Place, Suite 330
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2996
(717) 237-2262/TDD (717) 237-2261

Puerto Rico

USDA Rural Development State Office
654 Plaza Munoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 601
San Juan, PR 00936-6106
(787) 766-5095/TDD (787) 766-5332

South Carolina

USDA Rural Development State Office
Strom Thurmond Federal Building
1835 Assembly Street, Room 1007
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 765-5163/TDD (803) 765-5697

South Dakota

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building, Room 210
200 Fourth Street, SW
Huron, SD 57350
(605) 352-1100/TDD (605) 352-1147

Tennessee

USDA Rural Development State Office
3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37203-1071
(615) 783-1300

Texas

USDA Rural Development State Office
Federal Building, Suite 102
101 South Main
Temple, TX 76501
(254) 742-9700/TDD (254) 742-9712

Utah

USDA Rural Development State Office
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
125 South State Street, Room 4311
Salt Lake City, UT 84138
(801) 524-4321/TDD (801) 524-3309

Vermont/New Hampshire

USDA Rural Development State Office
City Center, 3rd Floor
89 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 828-6080/TDD (802) 223-6365

Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 238
Richmond, VA 23229-5014
(804) 287-1552/TDD (804) 287-1753

Washington

USDA Rural Development State Office
1835 Black Lake Boulevard SW, Suite B
Olympia, WA 98512-5715
(360) 704-7715/TDD (360) 704-7760

West Virginia

USDA Rural Development State Office
1550 Earl Core Road, Suite 101
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 284-4860/TDD (304) 284-4836

Wisconsin

USDA Rural Development State Office
4949 Kirschling Court
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 345-7671/TDD (715) 345-7614

Wyoming

USDA Rural Development State Office
P.O. Box 11005
100 East B Street, Room 1005
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 233-6703/TDD (307) 233-6733

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information, please contact the appropriate USDA Rural Development State Office as provided in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Overview**

Federal Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

Solicitation Opportunity Title: Rural Business Enterprise Grants.

Announcement Type: Initial Solicitation Announcement.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10.769.

Dates: Application Deadline: Completed applications must be received in the USDA Rural Development State Office no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on [INSERT 60 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER], to be eligible for FY 2012 grant funding. Applications received after this date will not be eligible for FY 2012 grant funding.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The RBEG program is authorized by section 310B(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (CONACT) (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)). Regulations are contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G. The primary objective of the program is to improve the

economic conditions of rural areas. The program is administered on behalf of RBS at the State level by the USDA Rural Development State Offices. Assistance provided to rural areas under the Programs may include the provision of on-site technical assistance to local and regional governments, public transit agencies, and related non-profit and for-profit organizations in rural areas; the development of training materials; and the provision of necessary training assistance to local officials and agencies in rural areas.

Awards under the RBEG passenger transportation program will be made on a competitive basis using specific selection criteria contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, and in accordance with section 310B(c)(2) of the CONACT. Information required to be in the application package includes Forms SF 424, "Application for Federal Assistance;" RD 1940-20, "Request for Environmental Information;" Scope of Work Narrative; Income Statement; Balance Sheet or Audit for previous 3 years; AD-1047, "Debarment/Suspension Certification;" AD-1048, "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion;" AD-1049, "Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements;" SF LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;" RD 400-1, "Equal Opportunity Agreement;" RD 400-4, "Assurance Agreement;" a letter stating Board authorization to obtain assistance; and a letter certifying citizenship, as referenced in 7 CFR 1942.307(b). For the FRNAT grant, which must benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, at least 75 percent of the benefits of the project must be received by members of Federally Recognized Native American Tribes. The project that scores the greatest number of points based on the RBEG selection criteria and the discretionary points will be selected for each grant.

Applicants must be qualified national non-profit organizations with experience in providing technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation service or facilities. To be considered "national," RBS requires a qualified organization to provide evidence that it operates rural transportation assistance programming in multiple States. There is not a requirement to use the grant funds in a multi-State area. Grants will be made to qualified national non-profit organizations for the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation services or facilities.

Definitions

The definitions are published at 7 CFR 1942.304.

II. Award Information

Type of Award: Grant.

Fiscal Year Funds: FY 2012.

Total Funding: \$750,000.

Approximate Number of Awards: Two.

Average Award: One single \$500,000 grant and another single \$250,000 grant for FRNAT's.

Anticipated Award Date: [INSERT 105 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

To be considered eligible, an entity must be a qualified national non-profit organization serving rural areas. Grants will be competitively awarded to qualified national non-profit organizations.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Matching funds are not required.

C. Other Eligibility Requirements

Applications will only be accepted from qualified national non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance for rural transportation.

D. Completeness Eligibility

Applications will not be considered for funding if they do not provide sufficient information to determine eligibility or are missing required elements. If due to a change made in the appropriation, additional information is needed, then applicants that submitted complete applications prior to the application deadline will be provided additional time in which to provide that information.

IV. Fiscal Year 2012 Application and Submission Information:

A. Address to Request Application Package

For further information, entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the USDA Rural Development State Office provided in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice to obtain copies of the application package.

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications through the Grants.gov Web site at:

<http://www.grants.gov>. Applications may be submitted in either electronic or paper format. Users of Grants.gov will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload and submit the application via the Grants.gov Web site. Applications may not be submitted by electronic mail.

- When you enter the Grants.gov Web site, you will find information about submitting an application electronically through the site as well as the hours of operation. USDA Rural Development strongly recommends that you begin the application process through Grants.gov in sufficient time to complete the application before the deadline date.
- You may submit all documents electronically through the Web site, including all information typically included on the application and all necessary assurances and certifications.
- After electronically submitting an application through the Web site, the applicant will receive an automatic acknowledgement from Grants.gov that contains a Grants.gov tracking number.

- USDA Rural Development may request that the applicant provide original signatures on forms at a later date.
- If applicants experience technical difficulties on the closing date and are unable to meet the deadline, you may submit a paper copy of your application to your respective Rural Development State Office. Paper applications submitted to a Rural Development State Office must meet the closing date and local time deadline.
- Please note that applicants can locate the downloadable application package for this program by the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number or FedGrants Funding Opportunity Number, which can be found at <http://www.Grants.gov>.

All applicants, whether filing applications through www.Grants.gov or by paper, must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number which can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1-866-705-5711 or at <http://www.dnb.com>.

B. Content and Form of Submission

An application must contain all of the required elements. Each application received in a USDA Rural Development State Office will be reviewed to determine if it is consistent with the eligible purposes contained in section 310B(c)(2) of the CONACT. Each selection priority criterion outlined in 7 CFR 1942.305(b)(3), must be addressed in the application. Failure to address any of the criteria will result in a zero-point score for that criterion and will impact the overall evaluation of the application. Copies of

7 CFR part 1942, subpart G, will be provided by any interested applicant making a request to a USDA Rural Development State Office provided in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice.

All projects to receive technical assistance through these passenger transportation grant funds are to be identified when the applications are submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office. Multiple project applications must identify each individual project, indicate the amount of funding requested for each individual project, and address the criteria as stated above for each individual project.

For multiple-project applications, the average of the individual project scores will be the score for that application.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Application Deadline Date: No later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) [INSERT 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]

Explanation of Deadlines: Applications must be in the USDA Rural Development State Office by the deadline date.

V. Application Review Information

RBS will score applications based on the grant selection criteria and weights contained in 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G and will select a grantee subject to the grantee's

satisfactory submission of the additional items required by 7 CFR part 1942, subpart G and the USDA Rural Development Letter of Conditions.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

Successful applicants will receive notification for funding from the USDA Rural Development State Office. Applicants must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations before the grant award will be approved. Unsuccessful applications will receive notification by mail. Grantees must further comply with applicable provisions of 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, 3019, and 3052.

VII. Agency Contacts

For general questions about this announcement, please contact your USDA Rural Development State Office provided in the ADDRESSES section of this Notice.

VIII. Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, the paperwork burden has been cleared by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0570-0022.

Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

All applicants, in accordance with 2 CFR part 25, must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number, which can be obtained at no cost via a toll-free request line at 1-866-705-5711 or online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. Similarly, in accordance with 2 CFR part 25, all applicants must be registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) prior to submitting an application. Applicants may register for the CCR at <http://www.ccr.gov> or by calling 1-866-606-8220 and press “1” for CCR. All recipients of Federal financial assistance are required to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive total compensation in accordance with 2 CFR Part 170.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TTD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

_January 20, 2012

JUDITH A. CANALES
Administrator
Rural Business-Cooperative Service

DATE

[FR Doc. 2012-2099 Filed 01/31/2012 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 02/01/2012]